GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:343
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
BIOMETRIC DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British High Commission has introduced biometric data collection procedure to check cases of identity fraud while issuing visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to replicate it for issuing visas by the Government of India which is already in place in more than 120 countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(b) The UK Government have introduced biometric visas for visa applicants from India from December 2007. This has been under implementation by the UK Government in different countries since 2006. The new system envisages collecting biometric data (fingerscans and a digital photograph) of visa applicants.

(c)-(d) The Government of India have no plans at present to issue biometric visas.